

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00

MC-02 IGA-02 EB-07 COME-00 /032 W

-----171205Z 108510 /53

R 170330Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3661

C O N F I D E N T I A L RANGOON 1734

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, BM

SUBJ: BURMESE REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE IN OBTAINING RECOILLESS RIFELS

1. THE FOLLOWING IS A REPEAT OF A DAO MESSAGE:

BEGIN QUOTE. AT MOD RQSTD MEETING WITH DATT 13 JUN, BURMA
ARMY REP STATED GUB INTEREST AS FOLL RE MIL WPNS/AMMO
PROCUREMENT/MANUFACTURE:

A. GUB DESIRES TO PURCHASE ABOUT 150 57MM RR AND 100,000
ROUNDS FROM US OR OTHER WPNS SOURCE. ALTERNATIVELY, IF ITEMS NOT
AVAIL FOR PURCHASE, GUB DESIRES, IF POSS, TO OBTAIN NEC TECH PKS
AND PERMISSION FR US FOR LOCAL MANUFACTURE OF WPN AND AMMO BY BURMA
DEF INDUST. ALSO, CONTINGENT ON LOCAL PRODUCTION BEING REQUIRED
AND FEASIBLE ALTERNATIVE, GUB WOULD BE INTERESTED IN PURCHASING
THROUGH FMS AS INTERIM WPN FORTY OR FIFTY 90MM RR, M67 AND AMMUNI-
TION.

B. BURMA ATTACHE IN WASH DC ORDERED IN 1976 THROUGH FMS
CHANNELS APPROX 50,000 40MM CART FOR M79 GREN LAUNCHER. DUE LACK OF
ADEQUATE SHIPPING TO RANGOON DELIVERY OF "URGENTLY NEEDED" AMMUNITION
IS DELAYED (PERIOD UNK). CURRENTLY GUB INVESTIGATING COST FEASIBILITY
D
OF AIR SHIPMENT. IN THIS CONNECTION, TO AVOID FUTURE TRANSP PROBS
GUB DESIRES ALSO, IF POSS, TO OBTAIN FR US TECH PKG AND PERMISSION
TO MANUFACTURE 40MM CART.

ACCORDING TO MOD REP, GUB HAS EXHAUSTED ALL FEASIBLE
AVENUES IN ATTEMPTS TO PURCHASE 57MM RR FR INTL ARMS MANUFACTURERS
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(INCL US) WITHOUT SUCCESS, AND HAS ONLY RECENTLY (APPARENTLY
LAST WEEK) DECIDED TO ADDRESS THE FEASIBILITY OF LOCAL MANUFACTURE
OF THESE WEAPONS, AS WELL AS 57MM RR AND 40MM GREN LAUNCHER
AMMUNITION. BASED ON US COMMENT CONCERNING DESIRES OUTLINED
PAR 1 ABOVE GUB WILL INITIATE APPROPRIATE ACTION. END QUOTE.

2. FINANCING OF THE PROPOSED ACQUISITION WAS NOT DIS-

CUSSED PRECISELY. IN CONTEXT IT APPEARED THAT UBL. SEIN TUN HAD IN MIND A CASH PURCHASE. HOWEVER, IT IS POSSIBLE THAT HE MIGHT BE CONTEMPLATING FMS CREDITS OR EVEN A GRANT UNDER THE NARCOTICS PROGRAM. IN THE OPINION OF THE DEFENSE ATTACHE, THERE IS NO QUESTION ABOUT THE MILITARY VALUE OF THESE WEAPONS. THE BURMA ARMY OFTEN FINDS ITSELF OUTGUNNED BY INSURGENT AND NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING GROUPS. FOR EXAMPLE, THE EMBASSY IS AWARE THAT ON SOME OCCASIONS NARCOTICS CARAVANS HAVE BEEN ABLE TO DELAY PURSUIT BY BURMA ARMY UNITS THROUGH USE OF SIMILAR OR IDENTICAL WEAPONS, WHILE STAYING OUT OF RANGE OF BURMA ARMY COUNTER-FIRE. THE EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT ACQUISITION OF THE NUMBER AND TYPE OF WEAPON REQUESTED BY COL. SEIN TUN IS JUSTIFIED IN PURSUIT OF PRIORITY NATIONAL INTERESTS OF THE US, AND SUPPORTS THE GUB'S REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE IN OBTAINING THEM.

3. REQUEST THE DEPARTMENT'S VIEWS ON THE FOREGOING AND THE POSSIBILITY OF OBTAINING FROM ANY SOURCE THE WEAPONS IN QUESTION.
OSBORN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY ASSISTANCE, DRUG CONTROL, PARAMILITARY FORCES, MILITARY SALES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 17-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977RANGOO01734
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770216-1129
Format: TEL
From: RANGOON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770645/aaaabnik.tel
Line Count: 83
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2112006
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BURMESE REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE IN OBTAINING RECOILLESS RIFELS
TAGS: MASS, SNAR, PINS, BM, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/40fcfb7a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009